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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WILLITON  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR  
THE YEAR 1962.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT



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WILLITON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR  
1962.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr.Chairman,Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report upon the health and sanitation of your district for the year 1962.

From the health standpoint,the year has been notable for the very few cases of infectious disease notified,and the health of the population generally continues to be good.

The following sections detail the work of the Department during the year,together with vital statistics and general public health services.

- Section A. Vital Statistics and Social Conditions.
- Section B. Water Supplies,Sewage and Refuse Disposal.
- Section C. Housing.
- Section D. Food Inspection and Supplies.
- Section E. Public Health Nuisances,Complaints,Etc.
- Section F. Caravans and Camping.
- Section G. Other Acts administered by the Department.
- Section H. Summary of Inspections and Visits by Health Department Officers.

Section A.

Vital Statistics & Social Conditions.

The district in general retains its' agricultural character and attracts in increasing numbers yearly,holiday makers and tourists. The opening of the Butlin Holiday Camp at Minehead has meant a very considerable increase in the week-end traffic on the A.39. Development continues,being mainly of the purely residential order, a pattern which looks like being maintained,apart from the Hinkley Point Nuclear Power Station.

Area.....	97,364 acres
Population(estimated mid-year home population).....	13,650
Number of Dwelling Houses.....	4,575
Rateable Value.....	£144,674
Product of a Penny Rate (estimated).....	£575

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.....	110	79	189
Illegitimate.....	9	6	15
	119	85	204

Birth Rate per thousand population (live births) ..... 14.9

Still Births.

Legitimate.....	0	0	0
Illegitimate.....	1	-	1
	1	0	1

Deaths.

From all causes.....	82	107	189
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Death Rate per thousand population..... 13.8

Health Services.

The district is served by Hospitals at Minehead and Musgrove Park, Taunton,and Hospitals for the aged sick at Williton,Bridgwater and Taunton. Ambulance services are available from Minehead and Musgrove Park.





<u>Notifiable Diseases.</u>	<u>Cases Notified.</u>
Smallpox .....	Nil
Scarlet Fever .....	4
Diphtheria .....	Nil
Enteric Fever .....	"
Measles .....	13
Whooping Cough .....	3
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	"
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis .....	"
Dysentery .....	"
Malaria .....	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	"
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	"
Erysipelas .....	"
Q.Fever .....	"
Food Poisoning .....	Nil
Tuberculosis (Respiratory) .....	2
(Non-respiratory) .....	Nil

### Section B.

#### Water Supplies.

The general standard of quality throughout the district has been reasonably good, apart from frequent deterioration in standards of purity of some supplies in the Western parishes. Pressure is being put upon the owners of these supplies and it is hoped to bring about an improvement in conditions very shortly.

The following parishes are now supplied with water from the Clatworthy Reservoir - Williton, Bicknoller, West Quantoxhead, Stogursey, Stringston, Sampford Brett, Stogumber, Crowcombe (part), Monksilver, Nettlecombe, Holford (part), Kilve (part), and the Old Cleeve and Washford Wards of Old Cleeve Parish.

Results of samples from piped supplies are as follows:-

#### Raw Water.

<u>Bacteriological</u> - Satisfactory - 257	Unsatisfactory - 71
<u>Chemical</u> - " - 13	" - Nil

#### Treated Water.

<u>Bacteriological</u> - " - 120	" - 11
<u>Chemical</u> - " - 7	" - Nil

### Refuse Disposal.

Of 30 Parishes, 29 have regular collections of refuse. The three larger villages receive weekly collections, whilst the remainder, with the exception of Oare, which is somewhat remote and consequently inaccessible in winter, are collected fortnightly. Special periodic collections are arranged for Oare parish.

Requests are frequently made to the department for extensions of the collection to some of the more remote farms and cottages, and where possible these requests are met, but the additional mileages and time involved means increases in the cost of collection.

Disposal is on four semi-controlled tips, all of which are rapidly becoming full and new disposal sites are being sought.

### Sewage Disposal.

Main drainage and efficient disposal systems exist in ten Parishes. The Western Parishes scheme, covering the hamlets of Allerford, Bossington, Luccombe, and Selworthy is 90% complete.

Work on the preliminaries is going ahead for the provision of efficient systems for the parishes of Stogumber, Sampford Brett, Bicknoller and West Quantoxhead, on the Eastern side of the district.

### Section C.

#### Housing.

There are now 4,641 permanent dwellings in the district, 73 having been added during the year by building and conversion. The Local Authority own 805. Applications for Council houses at the end of the year totalled 676, of which 349 may be classified as urgent, and there are 61 applications for Old People's Dwellings.

Grant-aided schemes under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, completed during the year numbered 63, at an average approval price of £800.





Housing (cont'd)

Housing sites are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain and prices have risen accordingly.

The Rent Act, 1957.

One Certificate of Disrepair has been issued under the above Act.  
Section D.

Food Inspection & Supplies.Carcases & Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & lambs	Pigs
Number killed (approximate)	1,340	65	210	7,800	3,300
Number inspected	1,213	56	195	7,171	3,055
<u>All diseases except T.B. and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	1	Nil	8	13	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	130	23	4	117	310
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than T.B. and cysticerci	10.8	41.07	6.1	1.08	10.3
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	"	"	"	38
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	.08	"	"	"	1.2
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	"	"	"	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	"	"	"	"
Generalised and totally condemned	"	"	"	"	"
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-					
(a) Tuberculosis	14	"	"	"	760
(b) Cysticercosis	3	"	"	"	Nil
(c) Other	1,201	441	370	4,842	230
Total (in lbs. condemned)	1,371	441	370	4,842	990


Slaughterhouses.

There are six licenced slaughterhouses operating in the district and all of these have now been brought up to the standard required by the Act of 1958 and the Prevention of Cruelty Regulations.

Slaughtering again shows an increase over the previous year and approximately 90% inspection of carcases has been maintained.

Food Premises, Etc.

The general good standard of food hygiene continues to be maintained, but pressure of other work has prevented the public health staff from concentrating more upon this very important aspect of their work. Informal action was necessary in only five cases.



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## Section E.

### Public Health Nuisances, Complaints, Etc.

Investigation of 119 complaints was undertaken during the year and these were mainly due to nuisances arising from defective drainage foul ditches, etc.

The problem of cesspool emptiers operated by a private company, emptying the contents on agricultural land has, in the main, been solved by the granting of permission to discharge into the Council's sewers.

The gipsy problem remains and will continue until the provision of a permanent site or sites with proper facilities.

### Rodent Control.

The Council's Operative has been fully employed during the year, and during the course of his work has actually recovered 2,325 dead rats. He also dealt successfully with 10 hornet's nests and 20 wasp's nests. During the summer months, in conjunction with his normal duties, he has also carried out regular clearance and maintenance of over 100 litter baskets.

The arrangement with the Watchet U.D.C. continues to operate smoothly. Treatments and inspections are as follows:-

<u>Property.</u>		<u>Inspected.</u>	<u>Treated.</u>
Domestic	...	652	205
Agricultural	...	206	21
Business	...	76	21
Local Authority	...	16	13

## Section F.

### Caravans & Camping.

The position regarding the permanent and holiday sites in the district has not materially changed, except that the new site at Warren Bay, Watchet, was opened on a limited basis and work to bring it up to the required standard is still proceeding.

Two former seasonal sites at Bossington have now closed down.

At the sites at Blue Anchor (Luttrell Estates, Ltd), and at Home Farm, St. Audries (Mr. C. Stafford), work designed to bring them up to the standard required by recent legislation, is proceeding.

Holiday caravanning and camping continues to increase and lay-byes and verges are being used to a considerable extent at the height of the season, and, whilst the litter problem is largely being controlled by additional points and receptacles, the lack of sanitation is a disturbing feature.

## Section G.

### Factories Act, 1937.

There are 56 factories in the district including six licenced slaughterhouses. Apart from these, the majority are of the light engineering type, whilst several are of a temporary nature, i.e., building sites. There are 24 outworkers resident in the district, of which 4 are employed by businesses outside the district.

### Pet Animals Act.

### Rag Flock Act.

There are no pet shops within the district or premises dealing in rag flock.

## Section H.

### Housing Acts, 1936-1954.

### Rent Act, 1957.

### Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

Housing Inspections	...	403
Informal Notices Served	...	14
Statutory Notices Served	...	15



Public Health Acts.

Inspections.

Drainage & Sewerage	...	155
Water Supplies	...	66
Refuse Disposal	...	70
Nuisances	...	101
Filthy or Verminous Premises	...	26
Public Conveniences	...	7
Sanitary Fittings	...	6
Miscellaneous Inspections	...	44
Infectious Diseases Enquiries	...	5
Informal Notices Served	...	15
Statutory Notices Served	...	2

Food & Drugs Acts.

Inspections.

Slaughterhouses	...	53
Food & Catering Premises	...	17
Knackers Yards	...	2
Informal Notices Served	...	5

Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957.

Inspections

Informal Notices Served	...	9
	...	1

Factories Acts.

Inspections

...	4
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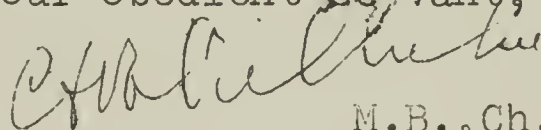
Complaints Received	...	119
" Investigated	...	119

I should like to be able to report upon 100% meat inspection, but with such a scattering of slaughterhouses this is impossible with the present staff. It is hoped that by the end of 1963 this will be achieved with an additional Inspector. An additional officer will also enable more attention to be given to other food premises and an acceleration in housing improvements.

Once again I would like to record my thanks to the staff of the Public Health Department for their continued good work.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient servant,



M.B., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.



